



放送大学





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JANUARY.

NEW YEAR'S DAY.

I.

The Master, followed by his Man,
Bears timely gifts to all his clan,
Whose festal greetings intertwine
With prosperous bamboo and pine.

II.

Anon the merry Maskers come
With peevish flute and rattling drum;
The smallest largess will assuage
Dread *Shishimai's* lion-rage.

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FEBRUARY.

THE FEAST OF INARI.

INARI, queen

Of rice and corn and tender bean,
In myriad shrines thy Paeon swells;
Thy foxes have been duly fed
With tofu and azuki red;
The pictured lanterns line the street,
The multitudinous, pattering feet
Recede, advance;
While I, thy virgin, shaking golden bells,
Dance.

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MARCH.

THE FEAST OF DOLLS.

Once a year to low and high,
 Rich and poor, by all held dear,
 Come the dolls, that never die,
 Once a year.

Minstrel, warrior, peasant, peer,
 Humbly hail His Majesty,
 Regnant on the topmost tier.

Children's hands, that nursed them, lie
 Out of reach of hope or fear;
 Only dolls may Death defy
 Once a year.

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APRIL.
CHERRY-BLOSSOM AT MUKOJIMA.

Put on your gayest kimono,
O Haru San, and let us go;
Take ivory chop-sticks, lacquer cup,
And fairy food, that we may sup.

From tree to tree the Spring has drawn
Pink-petalled canopies of lawn,
Which dim the day and veil the night
With flowers more exquisite than light.

What need have they of moon or star,
Who revel at Mukojima?

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MAY.

THE FEAST OF BOYS.

Carp, that breast the breeze untorn,
Float with pride and flout with scorn
Households, where no son is born.

Joy begs Valour share his crown,
Sword in hand, see *Shoki* frown,
Brave to beat the devils down.

Flags, whose crests recall his clan,
Bid the boy become a man
For the glory of Japan.

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JUNE.

IRIS AT HORIKIRI.

When iris blows
By marsh and lake,
In purple rows
When iris blows,
His sceptre grows
For June to take,
When iris blows
By marsh and lake.

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JULY.

THE FEAST OF LANTERNS.

While we loudly dance and sing,
Spirits of our dead return,
Guided where the lanterns burn;
In the houses they will find
Flowers and water left behind,
And sail in paper boats away
Until next *Bon-Odori* day.
Peasants, come and join the ring!

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AUGUST.

SUMMER IN KYOTO.

The gods in drowsy temples hide
From *Gion* to *Kinkakuji*,
And drowsy is *O Suye San*,
Who hears no laughing maids and men,
No tinkle of the samisen,
But dreams above her drooping fan,
And dips a slow foot indolently
In *Kamogawa's* listless tide.

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SEPTEMBER.

THE FEAST OF CHRYSANTHEMUM.

Too brief the Cherry and the Plum,
 And Iris and Westeria brief,
 But longer and more strong than they,
 In many-coloured gardens trim
 Or vases, delicately slim,
 By dainty hands adroitly set
 With calculated stem and leaf
 And white or yellow coronet,
 The sovereign bloom asserts his sway,
 Imperial chrysanthemum.

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OCTOBER.

THE FEAST OF EBISU

EBISU, king

Of luck and lucky bartering,
Lo, wine and fish we set before thee,
And fruit and cake and ledgers
high,

Wherein our gains and losses lie.
If I should sell these merchant-
men

My platter for two thousand yen,
Approve it, sold,
And grant to all the feasters, who
adore thee,

Gold!

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NOVEMBER.

AUTUMN AT MOMIJI-YAMA.

—
*“Okuyama ni
 Momiji fumiwake
 Naku shika no
 Koye kiku tokizo
 Aki wa kanashiki.”*
 —

“When on the hills the red leaves fall,
 When plaintively the red deer call,
 My heart becomes sad Autumn's thrall,”
O Aki San thus writes and grieves
 Among the fiery maple-leaves.

—

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DECEMBER.
PREPARING FOR NEW YEAR.

I.

The staircase shines, the matting shakes;
From roof and floor fly dust and mice;
Toichi's mallet pounds the rice,
And *Toro* moulds the mochi-cakes.

II.

For these, stored up in box and pan,
On seven mornings it is meet
That gods should find and mortals eat
When New Year dawns upon Japan.

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